

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 FPC-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 NEA-10 XMB-07 RSR-01 /130 W
----- 053978

R 140940 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3849

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5967

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG JA CH

SUBJ: JAPANESE DESIRE TO BUY PRC NATURAL GAS

1. AT MAY 10 MEETING BETWEEN MAROR JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISS AND LIAO CHENG- CHIH, HEAD OF VISITING CHINESE GOODWILL DELEGATION, POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE PURCHASE OF CHINESE NATURAL GAS WAS DISCUSSED. ACCORDING TO MORITA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO YOSHIHIRO INAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-CHINA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, HIROKI IMAZATO (PRESIDENT OF OVERSEAS PETROTEUM CORP.) TOLD LIAO HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CHINA HAD GAS RESERVES AVAILABLE. IF THIS WERE TRUE, HE SAID, JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO BUY GAS FROM THESE RESERVES. LIAO REPLIED, ACCORDING MORITA, THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO AVAILABILITY OF SUCH RESERVES WHEN HE RETURNED TO CHINA. IF SUCH GAS WERE AVAILABLE, HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO COOPERATE WITH IMAZATO' S PROPOSAL.

2. MORITA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPRESSION OF THOSE AT THE MEETING THAT IMAZATO ONLY FISHING AND THAT THERE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF REALIZING SUCH A PURCHASE.

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3. HEAD OF MITSUBISHI CORPORATION'S GAS DIVISION, MOTOOKA,
ALSO TOLD EMBOFF HE BELIEVED SUCH COOPERATION VERY UNLIKELY,
BECAUSE SUCH SALE OF GAS TO JAPAN WOULD REQUIRE EXPENSIVE
PIPELINES AND LIQUEFACTION PLANT. CHINA PROBABLY COULD NOT
HANDLE THIS LARGE AN INVESTMENT ITSELF, AND PRC STILL REFUSED
TO ACCEPT FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT.
INGERSOLL

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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